

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 6-8, 14-15, and 17 are amended and claims 3-5, 11-13, and 16 are cancelled. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found at least in original claims 5, 13, and 16. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-7, 12-14, and 16-19 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 5, 13, and 16 have been cancelled. The subject matter of claims 5, 13, and 16 (and their corresponding intervening claims) have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 8, and 15. Prompt allowance of pending claims 1-2, 6-10, 14-15, and 17-19 is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

Obviousness Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7, and 15-19 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent 6,715,093. A terminal disclaimer is filed herewith in order to place the application in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the double patenting rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over United States Patent 5,471,587 to Fernando (hereafter Fernando).

Fernando is directed to an apparatus for enabling internal data processing logic. The apparatus includes a number of units clocked at a first frequency to operate with an external bus operating at a second frequency that is a fraction of the first frequency.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter of claim 5. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Fernando.

Claims 3-4 have been cancelled, rendering the rejections of claims 3-4 moot. Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter of claim 16. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over United States Patent 5,867,695 to Amini et al. (hereafter Amini) in view of United States Patent 6,396,887 to Ware et al. (Ware).

Amini is directed to a method and system for reducing metastability between devices that communicate and operate at different clock frequencies. Ware is directed to an apparatus and method for generating a distributed clock signal using gear ratio techniques.

Claim 11 has been cancelled, rendering the rejections of claim 11 moot. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 13, respectively. Claims 2 and 9-10 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims 1 and 8, respectively, and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: **February 16, 2006**



Kelly T. Lee
Registration No. 47,743
Andrews Kurth LLP
1350 I Street, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. (202) 662-2736
Fax (202) 662-2739

Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer